

1. (THREE TIMES AMENDED) A charging system for automatically calculating a charge for a dish or drink selected by a customer, comprising:

writing means for [selectively] writing data in a re-writable data carrier attached to a container of a dish or drink;

reading means for reading data in a non-contact state from the [selectively] re-writable data carrier, the re-writable data carrier waiting a predetermined period after the reading means reads the data before answering an inquiry from the reading means; and

calculating means for calculating the charge using the read data and displaying the charge.

2. (THREE TIMES AMENDED) A charging system for automatically calculating a charge for a dish or drink selected by a customer, comprising:

input means for inputting data to be used to calculate a charge; and

writing means for [selectively] writing the data in a re-writable data carrier attached to a container of a dish or drink, the re-writable data carrier waiting a predetermined period after the writing means writes the data before answering an inquiry from the writing means.

3. (AS ONCE AMENDED) The charging system according to claim 2, wherein said writing means writes one of a kind and price of the dish or drink in the data carrier.

4. (AS FILED) The charging system according to claim 2, further comprising:

measuring means for measuring a weight of the dish or drink, wherein

said writing means writes one of a measured weight and a price corresponding to the measured weight in the data carrier.

5. (THREE TIMES AMENDED) A charging system for automatically calculating a charge for a dish and drink selected by a customer, comprising:

reading means for reading data in a non-contact state from a [selectively] re-writable data carrier attached to a container of one or more dishes or drinks selected by the customer, the re-writable data carrier waiting a predetermined period after the reading means reads the data before answering an inquiry from the reading means; and

calculating means for calculating the charge using the read data.

6. (AS FILED) The charging system according to claim 5, wherein the data carrier is attached to the bottom of the container, and said reading means reads the data collectively from the data carrier of one or more containers placed on a tray.

7. (AS ONCE AMENDED) The charging system according to claim 5, wherein said reading means reads price data of said dish or drink from the data carrier, and said calculating means adds up the price data of each dish or drink, and calculates the charge for the one or more dishes or drinks.

8. (AS ONCE AMENDED) The charging system according to claim 5, wherein

said reading means reads data indicating a kind of said dish or drink from the data carrier, and

said calculating means includes an output means for outputting a kind of the dishes or drinks selected by the customer together with the charge for the dishes or drinks.

9. (AS ONCE AMENDED) The charging system according to claim 5, further comprising

storing means for storing a correspondence relation between a kind and a price of each dish or drink, wherein

said reading means reads data indicating a kind of said dish or drink from the data carrier, and

said calculating means obtains price data corresponding to the kind data of each dish or drink referring to the correspondence relation, adds up the price data of each dish or drink, and calculates the charge for the one or more dishes or drinks.

10. (THREE TIMES AMENDED) A container used in connection with reading means for reading data for an automatic calculation of a charge of a dish or drink selected by a customer, comprising:

means for holding the dish or drink; and

[selectively] re-writable data carrier means for selectively recording data to be used to calculate the charge the re-writable data carrier means waiting a predetermined period after the reading means reads the data before answering an inquiry from the reading means.

11. (THREE TIMES AMENDED) A calorie calculating system for automatically calculating calories of a dish or drink selected by a customer, comprising:

reading means for reading data in a non-contact state from a [selectively] re-writable data carrier attached to a container of one or more dishes or drinks selected by the customer, the re-writable data carrier waiting a predetermined period after the reading means reads the data before answering an inquiry from the reading means; and

calculating means for calculating calories of the one or more dishes or drinks using read data and displaying the calories.

12. (THREE TIMES AMENDED) A charging system for automatically calculating a charge for goods selected by a customer, comprising:

reading means for reading data in a non-contact state from a [selectively] re-writable data carrier attached to one or more items of goods selected by the customer the re-writable data carrier waiting a predetermined period after the reading means reads the data before answering an inquiry from the reading means; and

calculating means for calculating the charge for the one or more items of goods using read data and displaying the charge.

13. (AS ONCE AMENDED) The charging system according to claim 12, wherein the one or more items of goods are arranged flatly so that the directions of attached data carriers are the same, and said reading means reads the data collectively from the data carriers of the one or more goods arranged flatly.

14. (TWICE AMENDED) A computer-readable recording medium encoded with a program for controlling a computer, the program comprising:

inputting data to be used to calculate a charge for a dish or drink selected by a customer; and

[selectively] writing the data in a re-writable data carrier attached to a container of the dish or drink the re-writable data carrier waiting a predetermined period after the step of writing the data before answering an inquiry.

15. (THREE TIMES AMENDED) A computer-readable recording medium encoded with a program for controlling a computer, the program comprising:

reading data in a non-contact state from a [selectively] re-writable data carrier attached to a container of one or more dishes or drinks selected by a customer the re-writable data carrier waiting a predetermined period after the step of reading the data before answering an inquiry from a reading means;

calculating a charge for the one or more dishes or drinks using the read data; and
displaying the charge.

16. (THREE TIMES AMENDED) A charging method for automatically calculating a charge for a dish or drink selected by a customer, comprising:

writing data in a [selectively] re-writable data carrier attached to a container of a dish or drink;

reading data in a non-contact state from a data carrier of one or more dishes or drinks selected by the customer the re-writable data carrier waiting a predetermined period after the step of reading the data before answering an inquiry from a reading means;

calculating said charge using read data; and

displaying said charge.

17. (ONCE AMENDED) A charging system for automatically calculating a charge for a dish or drink selected by a customer, comprising:

a writing unit [selectively] writing data in a re-writable data carrier formed as part of a container of a dish or drink;

a reading unit reading data in a non-contact state from the [selectively] re-writable data carrier, the re-writable data carrier waiting a predetermined period after the reading unit reads the data before answering an inquiry from the reading unit; and

a calculating unit calculating the charge using the read data and displaying the charge.

18. (AS NEW) The charging system according to claim 17, wherein the selectively re-writable data carrier is adhered to the container of the dish or drink.

19. (AS NEW) The charging system according to claim 17, wherein the selectively re-writable data carrier is embedded within the container of the dish or drink.

20. (ONCE AMENDED) A container used in connection with reading means for reading data for automatic calculation of a charge of a dish or drink selected by a customer, comprising:

tableware to hold the dish or drink; and

a [selectively] re-writable data carrier to [selectively] record data to be used to calculate the charge, the re-writable data carrier waiting a predetermined period after the reading means reads the data before answering an inquiry from the reading means.

21. (AS NEW) The container used in an automatic calculation of a charge of a dish or drink according to claim 20, wherein said selectively re-writable data carrier further comprises:

an antenna;

a voltage generator circuit to provide power to said data carrier in response to electromotive force received from the antenna; and

a memory unit to record the data to be used to calculate the charge.

22. (AS NEW) The container used in an automatic calculation of a charge of a dish or drink according to claim 21, wherein said selectively re-writable data carrier further comprises:

a modulator/demodulator to communicate modulated data between the antenna with the memory unit.

23. (TWICE AMENDED) A container used in connection with reading means for reading data for an automatic calculation of a charge of a dish or drink selected by a customer, comprising:

tableware to hold the dish or drink;

a [selectively] re-writable data carrier to [selectively] record data to be used to calculate the charge, the re-writable data carrier waiting a predetermined period after the reading means reads the data before answering an inquiry from the reading means.

24. (TWICE AMENDED) The container used in an automatic calculation of a charge of a dish or drink comprising:

an antenna;

a memory;

communication control logic to record [the] data in a re-writable data carrier to be used to calculate the charge in said memory; and

a voltage generator circuit to provide power to said memory and said communication control logic in response to electromotive force received from said antenna, the re-writable data carrier waiting a predetermined period after the communication control logic records the data before answering an inquiry from the communication control logic.

25. (AS NEW) The container used in an automatic calculation of a charge of a dish or drink according to claim 24, further comprising: